

Eliza Huntington Memorial Home
99 Washington Street
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-259

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CONN-259

ELIZA HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL HOME

Street Address: 99 Washington Street, Norwich, New London County,
Connecticut

Present Owner
and Occupant: Eliza Huntington Memorial Home
Chester Gregory, Director

Present Use: "A home for respectable and indigent, aged and
infirm females"

Brief Statement
of Significance: Built before 1835, this frame house has notable
exterior Greek Revival ornament.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners:
- 1807 quit claims deed from Elijah Lathrop to his grandson
John Lathrop for land only /Norwich property Recordings,
book 33, page 449, October 26, 1807/.
- 1832 by warranty to Jonathan Dodge /Ibid., book 42, page 504,
August 29, 1832/.
- 1835 warranty to Appleton Meech /Ibid., book 45, page 219,
October 24, 1835/.
- 1836 warranty to Jedediah Huntington w/dwelling house,
barn, and outhouse /Ibid., book 45, page 556, May 21,
1836/.
- B. Date of Erection: Since the house was mentioned in the
warranty of 1836, it was apparently built before then.
Since Appleton Meech only owned the property over the
winter 1835-1836, the house was probably built before
then. It must have been built, therefore, for either
John Lathrop or Jonathan Dodge. The use of Greek Revival
ornament indicates the house was probably built for Dodge.
- C. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Except for the front
parlor, the interior of the house has been considerably
altered for the Home. The exterior, however, is largely
unaltered.
- D. Sources of Information:
1. George H. Cross, III, "The Eliza Huntington Memorial
Home" (Student paper in office of Professor Carroll
L. V. Meeks, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut;
January 16, 1959).
 2. Eliza Huntington Memorial Home (Norwich, Connecticut:
Norwich Printing Co., 1874).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a large frame house with Greek Revival ornament.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Layout: The house consists of a large, two-story rectangular front block with a long, two-story wing to the rear.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Frame, with clapboards on the north side, and vertical flush siding on the west front and the south sides. The facade is divided into three bays by four, fluted, flat Ionic pilasters.
4. Porches, stoops: An entrance stoop, seven steps high, is made of large blocks of stone with iron railings. The south porch of the main block of the house is a two-story high, Ionic tetraprostyle portico; a wide gabled dormer projects from the house roofing the porch and forming a pediment over the portico. There is a lower two-story porch on the south side of the wing, and a one-story porch on the north side of the main block, each with four Ionic columns.
5. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys in the front block, at the front wall and toward the rear, and one chimney in the rear wing.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is a rear entrance in the wing and secondary entrances in the porches. The main entrance, on the west, has a paneled door in a pilaster trim doorway with side and transom lights. The door has two, narrow, vertical panels, and the trim has foliated moldings. Above the doorway is an elaborate pediment of carved and sawn pieces applied directly to the face of the wall. The pediment is contained within a rectangular panel at the center and scrolls at the sides.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Most of the windows are double-hung, six-over-six lights, with louvered shutters. There are a few six-light fixed sash in the wing, and semicircular lights in the gable ends of the south porch and the west front.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There are boxed, molded eaves around the entire house. Below the eaves on the north porch, the south porch of the main block, and the facade there are Ionic entablatures, and on the north porch only, a dentil course. The horizontal cornices are carried across the gable ends on the west front and the south porch roof.

C. Technical Description of Interiors: The main entrance leads into a stair hall in the northwest corner of the house. There are parlors grouped around this entrance hall in the main block of the house. The rear wing contains a den, dining room, pantry, and kitchens. The second floor has bedrooms for the residents. The interior has been altered for present use except for the front parlor.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The house faces west on a large lot in a built-up residential section of town. It is situated on the north side of the lot with a large, open yard sloping down to the south.
2. Walks, driveways, etc.: Walks are concrete. The driveway goes to the rear of the lot on the north side of the house.
3. Landscaping: The yard is informally landscaped with trees, lawn, shrubs, and flowers and is separated from the street by a tall hedge.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
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